Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04018 230641Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-06 L-03 CU-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /032 W
----------231042Z 049992 /22
R 230555Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6326

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4018

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TBIO, OSCI, JA
SUBJECT: PROPOSED NIH CONTRACT NO. NO 1 CM-12340 - DR.
YOHEI ITO

REF: STATE 058688

1. SCICOUNS HAS APPOINTMENT TO SEE DR. ITO AT AICHI MEDICAL COLLEGE, NAGOYA, ON MARCH 25.

2. RE PARA 3 REFTEL, CONCERNING USE OF FETUSES IN RESEARCH, THIS PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED IN JAPAN, OF COURSE, IN CULTURING HUMAN DIPLOID CELLS FOR TESTING MUTAGENICITY OF DRUGS, INSECTICIDES, ETC., AND FOR OTHER BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH. USE OF FETUSES IN RESEARCH IN JAPAN IS DELICATE MATTER. IT IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED BY LAWS PERTAINING TO DEBASEMENT OR PRESEVERATION OF CADAVERS. APPLICATION MUST BE MADE TO PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT FOR USE OF FETUSES IN RESEARCH. APPROVAL ALSO MUST BE OBTAINED FROM MOTHER AND FATHER OF MISCARRIED FETUS. EMBASSY HAS NO WAY OF PREDICTING WHETHER PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF USG-SPONSORED RESEARCH INVOLVING FETUSES WOULD CAUSE UNUSUAL FUROR, BUT IT SEEMS TO US THAT THERE IS AT LEAST A POSSIBILITY THAT LEFT-WING POLITICAL ACTIVISTS--ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A CAUSE TO USE IN ATTACKING EITHER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OR THE U.S.--COULD SEIZE UPON DISCLOSURE AS MEANS OF CREATING EMBARRASSMENT FOR ALL
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INVOLVED PARTIES. HOWEVER, ALMOST ANY SCIENTIFIC RE-SEARCH PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO APPEAR OMINOUS IF ENOUGH IMAGINATION IS USED, AND THE ALTERNATIVE OF NOT SUPPORT-ING RESEARCH ON THIS GROUND IS UNACCEPTABLE. THEREFORE, ASSUMING THAT ALL OTHER OBSTACLES TO GRANTING CONTRACT TO DR. ITO ARE OVERCOME, WE RECOMMEND THAT USG TAKE ITS CHANCES ON THE FETUS ISSUE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: TBIO, OSCI, JA, US
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